Subsidy on Drip Irrigation

3087. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented for increasing the amount of subsidy on the drip irrigation for oilpalm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the export of oilpalm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had represented for increasing subsidy on installation of drip irrigation system for Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 per hectare to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxation of restriction of area from 1 hectare to 6 hectares per Oil Palm grower's family.

(c) The Government of India raised the subsidy to Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxed the restriction of area to 6 hectares for installation of drip irrigation system in March, 1996. Further, the subsidy borne by Government of India with State Government was revised from 80:20 to 90:10 sharing basis.

(d) No measures have so far been taken to increase export of Oil Palm.

Reduction in the running time of Trains

3088. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would take steps to reduce the running time of Shatabdi Express train leaving from Bangalore to Hubli and back;

(b) whether the Government would take steps for stopping the train at other than the scheduled stoppages to reduce the running time and would extend the train upto Bengaum; and

(c) whether it is proposed to reduce the train fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, as Bangalore-Hubli Shatabadi Express is very poorly patronised, it is being replaced by an Intercity Express with additional stoppage in October - 1996 Time Table.

Conversion into Broad Gauge line

3089. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased ot state :

(a) whether the work relating to the gauge conversion of rail line between Kottur and Hospet has not got clearance from the concerned agency of the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance earmarked for the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : No, Sir. The gauge conversion of rail line between Kotturu and Hospet is a part of Gauge Conversion of Hospet-Goa section, cleared by this Ministry. The work on this section, i.e. Kotturu-Hospet, has since been completed and commissioned.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bridge at Hathras Junction

3090. SHRI KRISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted during the recent years for the construction of bridge at the Hathras Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct an over bridge and platform on the metre gauge line at the Hathras Junction; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Construction of a Road over bridge at Km. 1296/29-31 on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section in lieu of level crossing No. 95-A on Pilibhit-Bharatpur Road has been included in the Works Programme of 96-97 at a cost of rs. 827.11 lakhs (Rly's share Rs. 373.76 lakhs and State PWD's share Rs. 453.35 lakhs).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Multi-State Co-Operatives

3091. SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to encourage setting up of multi state co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?